



St. Louis Audubon Society



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FEBRUARY 1993

Our Threatened State Parks - Subject of March Meeting

by Jim Holsen

That loss of natural diversity is the most pervasive threat facing Missouri State Parks is the conclusion of Paul Nelson, Director of Natural History Programs for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Over 1,500 threats in 8 threat categories were identified in a recent study. Mr. Nelson's report, released last year, provides the basis for a major ecosystem restoration program which will mark the 75th anniversary of the Missouri state park system.

For our next general membership meeting on March 11, at the Powder Valley Nature Center, Bill Brandhorst, board member of St. Louis Audubon, has arranged for Mr. Nelson to describe this comprehensive study of our threatened state parks and his proposals to restore "the paradise of wind-swept prairies, park-like savannas, desert-like glades and lush wetlands" that characterized the Missouri landscape described by early explorers.

In an article in Missouri Resource Review for fall 1992, the publication of the Department of Natural Resources, Mr. Nelson quotes from Henry Rowe Schoolcraft's description of the Ozarks as he found them in 1818: "A tall, thick and rank growth of wild grass covers the whole country, in which oaks are standing interspersed, like fruit trees in some well-cultivated orchard, and giving to the scenery the most novel, pleasing and picturesque appearance."

Again, Henry Marie Brackenridge had this impression while

Paul Nelson to Speak at March Audubon Meeting

Come to participate in a discussion of "Our Threatened State Parks" and to learn about a program for their preservation and restoration. This meeting is co-sponsored by the St. Louis Audubon Society and the Eastern Missouri Group, Ozark Chapter, of the Sierra Club.

Date & Time:

7:30 pm, Thursday, March 11, 1993
Question-and-Answer Period to Follow

Place:

Powder Valley Nature Center
Missouri Dept. of Conservation
11715 Cragwold Rd.
(Near the intersection of Hwys I-44 & I-270 in St. Louis County. Cragwold Rd. runs west from Geyer Rd., a short distance north of the intersection of Geyer with Watson Rd. Look for the Department of Conservation sign.)

Moderator:

Bill Salsgiver
President,
St. Louis Audubon Society

Speaker:

Paul Nelson
Director of Natural History Programs
Missouri Department of Natural Resources

standing on a bluff near St. Charles: "To the right, the Missouri is concealed by a wood of no great width. . . . To the left, we behold the ocean of prairie. . . . The whole extent perfectly level, covered with long waving grass, and at every moment changing color from the shad-

ows cast by passing clouds." Do these early descriptions portray the Ozarks as we know them today? No—but that is the way it was, according to Paul Nelson and others who have gone back to the old records.

A restoration of that early environment is the key to retaining the biodiversity so characteristic of Missouri. And Missouri is diverse. Situated between the Great Plains of the West and the Eastern woodlands, Missouri has the floodplains and wetlands characteristic of two great river valleys, the Ozark Plateau to the south, prairie lands to the west, and agricultural lands to the north. In his article, Mr. Nelson speaks of more than 200 ecosystems, or individually identifiable natural surroundings: prairies, forests, savannas, glades, cliffs, wetlands, caves, rivers, and lakes.

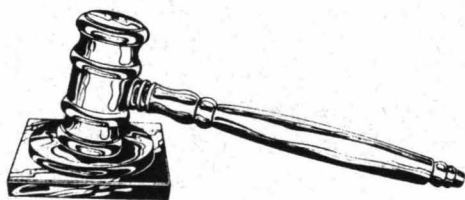
In the same article, Mr. Nelson quotes Bill Palmer, Director of the Department of Natural Resources' Division of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation: "The Missouri state park system will play a vital role in preserving and restoring the paradise hidden within its parks. . . . On this, our 75th anniversary, we will introduce a major ecosystem restoration program." Park staff are planning to restore ecosystems on over 60,000 acres in 34 state parks.

NOTICE:

Change of Date for April Open House only!

Open House to be held **April 18** (Third Sunday)

April 11, Second Sunday, is Easter. See Upcoming Events for more information!



From Your President

by Bill Salsgiver

Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." I recently read this quote and decided that I was glad that I was giving my time to an organization I believe in. Our chapter is involved in numerous local and regional events; we are always in search of people who are looking for a way to lend their time and/or expertise so that we can be a more visible entity in the St. Louis community.

One of the regional events our chapter participates in is the Annual Regional Audubon River Conference in Kearney, Nebraska, March 18-22. This year's River Conference is being held in conjunction with the International Crane Conference. Several people from our chapter will be going to interact with other Auduboners and learn about the beautiful sandhill cranes, which will be migrating through Kearney in large numbers during the conferences. If you would like to hitch a ride to the conference, just give us a call.

I'll take this opportunity to plug the Audubon Activist, a free publication from National Audubon. Well, not actually free. The cost is that you pledge to write at least two letters and make at least two phone calls a year on behalf of environmental issues. The publication is in newspaper format and published every other month. The issues covered are national and international in scope. The Activist also helps you to write the letters by telling you whom to contact, when to contact them, and, in a general sense, what to say. Just make the first letter to: Audubon Activist, Box AA, 700 Broadway, New York, NY 10003 to request the Activist.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Second Sunday Open House and Programs

Sunday, February 14 — Open House at Education Center from 11 am to 3 pm. At 1 pm, Jack Harris will narrate the Missouri Native Spring Wildflowers slide show prepared for the Missouri Botanical Garden by the Missouri Native Plant Society.

Sunday, March 14 — Open House at Education Center from 11 am to 3 pm. At 1 pm, Paul Shadrack, who was honored on his recent retirement from the Hazelwood School District by having a wildflower area named for him, will present a program called "Experiences in the Natural Environment." This will provide hands-on activities, including examining bird feathers & observing at least one live animal.

Sunday, April 18 (Third Sunday) — Open House at Education Center from 11 am to 3 pm. At 1:30 pm, Dr. Zuleyma Tang-Martinez, Professor of Biology at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, will speak on "Kin Recognition."



St. Louis Audubon Public Symposium

Thursday, March 11 — "Our Threatened State Parks" by Paul Nelson, Director of Natural History Programs for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. 7:30 pm at Powder Valley Nature Center. (See feature article & information on first page.)

Bird Walks

Meet at 8 am at designated site—all near St. Louis area. Coaching & instruction for all levels. Bring binoculars, bird book; dress for field conditions & season. Consider joining our scheduled group trips or birding on your own; see directions below.

Saturday, March 6 — Meet at Riverlands, later travel on to Horseshoe Lake. Leader: Dave Pierce, H# 434-1651.

Saturday, March 20 — Meet at Busch Wildlife Area-Hampton Lake parking lot just beyond gate at HQ. Leader: Paul Bauer, H# 921-3972.

Saturday, March 27 — Meet at Busch Wildlife Area-Hampton Lake parking lot just beyond gate at HQ. Leader: Dave Pierce, H# 434-1651.

Saturday, April 3 — Meet at Busch Wildlife Area—Hampton Lake parking lot just beyond gate at HQ. After lunch, on to Marais Temps Clair Wildlife Area marsh. Leader: Paul Bauer, H# 921-3972.

Saturday, April 17 — Meet at Tower Grove Park (NW corner) in area with underbrush (Gaddy Memorial). Leader: Paul Bauer, H# 921-3972.

Directions to Birding Locations:

Busch — In St. Charles Co., go south on Hwy 94 from US 40 one mile; west on Hwy D to entrance; pass HQ area, go through gate to parking lot by first lake.

Horseshoe Lake — East from downtown St. Louis on I-55-70 to Hwy 111 exit; north on Hwy 111 to park entrance at concession stand. Also can go east on I-270 in north St. Louis Co. across Miss. River to Hwy 111 exit; then south on Hwy 111 to park entrance.

Marais Temps Clair — North on Hwy 94 from I-70 through St. Charles to Hwy H; from Hwy H turn left at Island Rd.; go under RR & turn left at next road to small HQ bldg. & parking.

Riverlands — On Miss. River near Alton. Go north on Hwy 367 from I-270 in north St. Louis Co. Hwy 367 joins US 67 & crosses Missouri River. Continue to last large gas station in MO & turn right into Riverlands; meet at Riverlands map/sign just beyond gas station.

Tower Grove Park — Take I-44 or I-64 east to south on Kingshighway. Go approx. 1 mile to left on Magnolia. Walk to brushy area at NW corner of park.

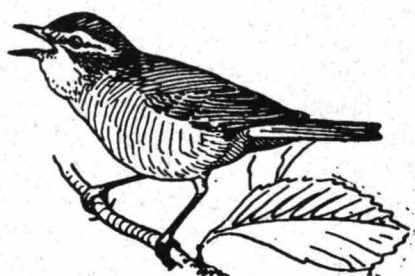
Special Events

Thursday thru Monday, March 18-22 — Annual Regional Audubon River Conference in Kearney, Nebraska (held in conjunction with the 1993 International Crane Symposium, March 18-19).

Sunday, April 18 — Wings of Spring (bird migration celebration) at Riverlands. For more info., call U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Riverlands Office, #899-0405.

Friday, April 30 — Annual Banquet of the St. Louis Audubon Society. Place and program to be announced in April newsletter. Please mark this date on your calendar.

Saturday & Sunday, May 8 & 9 — Earth Day at Forest Park, in area adjacent to Steinberg Skating Rink. Activities held from 10 am to 6 pm.



Audubon Education Center Boasts New Displays

by *Dave Pierce*

Last year the St. Louis chapter's board of directors initiated plans to secure wildlife specimens for the education and enjoyment of our members and the public.

Our chapter obtained the necessary collecting permits from the National Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Missouri's Conservation Commission. Designated volunteer collectors were active during the spring and summer of 1992 obtaining a variety of specimens for display purposes.

Audubon members turned in a sizable number of native birds found dead, and several of them have been mounted by an area taxidermist. Currently on display at the Education Center are a screech owl, mourning dove, hummingbird, indigo bunting, red-bellied woodpecker, and a pair of downy woodpeckers. We are planning to have more birds mounted in future months. If anyone finds a rare or unusual dead bird in good condition, please let us know immediately so it can be preserved.

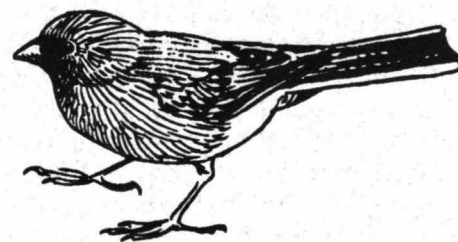
Ralph Cook and I worked together collecting nests and eggs of some of our St. Louis area birds. These nests include simple stick structures like the mourning dove's to elaborate works of art such as the oriole's and gnatcatcher's nests. The collection also includes nests of some common species like the robin, bluejay, and cardinal, plus those of a few more rare ones like the barn swallow, red-eyed vireo and ovenbird.

Ralph and I have an interesting story relating to each nest we found. The best one is when Ralph fell into the river attempting to get closer to an oriole nest hanging from the end of a limb over the water! This interesting nest and egg exhibit is currently in the large display case in the Education Center's dining room.

Bill Brandhorst has been actively collecting insects, especially many beautiful butterflies and

moths. Bill has mounted his specimens in attractive wooden frames between two panes of glass. This enables the viewer to see both front and back wing colors and patterns. Several colorful and unique species are on display now at the Center.

The St. Louis chapter wishes to thank all the key people who helped in this effort. We invite all members and their friends to come out and see our new and attractive exhibits.



St. Louis Audubon Featured on "Earthworms"

by *Dave Tylka*

The St. Louis Audubon Society was recently featured on the environmental radio program called "Earthworms" on the National Public Radio station, KDHX FM88. This hour-long radio program is broadcast live on KDHX every Wednesday from noon until 1:00 pm. Past presidents Paul Bauer and Dave Tylka represented our chapter on the January 27 broadcast.

"Earthworms" moderator Jean Ponzi talked with Paul and Dave about biodiversity and wildlife conservation, using birds to illustrate how to manage wildlife habitat in and around the metro area. Besides tips on birdfeeding and birdwatching, the goals and educational activities of our chapter were highlighted.

Paul and Dave have been asked to return as guests on the "Earthworms" program for the April 14 broadcast. For an update on birding and other conservation activities in the St. Louis area, tune the radio dial to KDHX on FM88 on that Wednesday from noon to 1:00 pm.

THE CONSERVATION CORNER

Missouri Priorities

by Jim Holsen

On January 11, a new administration took office in Jefferson City. What issues do we expect to be environmental priorities for Governor Mel Carnahan? Here are a few reminders of Missouri's needs.

Appointments to Missouri Conservation Commission—The Commission, which sets policy for the management of 600,000 acres or 83 percent of Missouri's public lands, consists of 4 persons. John Powell, known for his advocacy of clear cutting, was reappointed for another 6 years last June by the Commission itself when Governor Ashcroft did not take action on the pending appointment. Governor Carnahan will make 1 appointment in June of 1993 and 2 in 1995.

Until now, members appointed to the Commission have represented hunters and fishermen, or commercial interests such as logging. While the number of hunters in Missouri has been decreasing, the number of persons engaging in non-consumptive uses of public lands (hiking, camping, birding, etc.) has been increasing. Since the Commission (and the Missouri Department of Conservation, which it controls) is now funded primarily by a 1/8th of 1 percent sales tax imposed on all citizens, it is time that the Commission represent the broader environmental interests of all citizens.

Governor Carnahan has pledged to appoint members who have proven knowledge and interest in conservation and the environment. He also noted that all previous members have been white males, some openly hostile to the agency's environmental mission.

Solid Waste Management—Remember the trains loaded with garbage that were stopped on the

tracks in East St. Louis and in Kansas City while an approved landfill was sought? That is interstate commerce over which the states have little control. Missouri should work with its Congressional delegation to get a bill giving the states regulatory authority over shipments of solid wastes.

Landfills are not only eyesores but also serious sources of pollution for soils and water supplies. When we recall the proposals last year to create new landfills in view of our state parks, we are reminded that under Missouri law the state cannot regulate landfills on the basis of aesthetic or cultural considerations. We need a comprehensive policy for waste disposal. In St. Louis County, we have zoning laws, but in most rural counties, which usually lack zoning protection, there are no regulations on the placement of new landfills.

Solid waste management begins with "source reduction." Governor Carnahan has proposed that the state provide incentives to encourage industry to eliminate unnecessary packaging materials and to promote the use of reusable packaging. He has also said that the state should provide incentives to promote the use of recycled materials.

Land Management—Missouri has funded a new Soil and Water Conservation Act, which will help to alleviate the rapid loss of topsoil from our agricultural lands, but there are other concerns. We must regulate the disposal of mining wastes and control agricultural runoff, which may contain pesticides and other harmful chemicals. The Department of Natural Resources has a "non-point" pollution program ready for implementation but must wait for the publication of a final ruling by EPA. The state can hurry this along.

All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are eroding hillsides and tearing up stream beds. ATV owners are pressing the Forest Service for several hundred miles of ATV trails in the Salem/Potosi region of the Mark

Twain National Forest. An environmental impact statement is scheduled for release in June. Missouri officials must work with the Forest Service and also control the use of ATVs on state lands.

Floodplains and wetlands provide important ecological functions, yet both are being rapidly lost to commercial and agricultural development. Missouri does not have, but badly needs, a law regulating development on floodplains. Without it, we will soon lose the floodplains along the Missouri River south of Highway I-70, in the region of the proposed Page Avenue Extension.

The clear-cut logging practices advocated by John Powell, Commissioner and former Chairman of the Missouri Conservation Commission, have been highly controversial. The MOFEP (Missouri Ozark Forest Ecosystem Project) program of the Department of Conservation is designed to demonstrate how different logging practices affect plant and animal life in an Ozark forest, but this program will require several decades before results are known. A better policy is required in the interim.

Missouri Biodiversity Protection—Biodiversity is the new "buzz-word" favored by ecologists, but it seems to be a useful one. The loss of the natural biodiversity characteristic of Missouri in its pre-settlement days is of concern to everyone interested in our environmental resources. Urbanization and agricultural development fragment and isolate the natural ecosystems that remain. Native species are displaced by non-native species. Interruption of the natural fire and flood cycles alters the ecosystem. And we all know that many natural glades, prairies, forests, and savannas are deteriorating and often lack representatives of all original flora and fauna.

A major effort is underway among cooperating state and federal agencies to conserve our biodiversity. The Missouri Biodiversity Council consists of heads of the Department of Conservation, Depart-

ment of Natural Resources, Mark Twain National Forest, National Park Scenic Riverways, Soil Conservation Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Corps of Engineers, and Department of Agriculture.

The Biodiversity Coordinating Committee includes, in addition, the Missouri Farm Bureau, Nature Conservancy, Highway and Transportation Department, and the EPA. The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) proposes to use MDC lands in Shannon and neighboring counties, together with new lands recently acquired from the Kerr-McGee Corporation by the Nature Conservancy and being transferred to MDC, for a pilot project in regional planning. We should support these efforts.

Preservation of Urban Natural Areas—By the end of this century, 80 percent of Missouri's population will be living in large metropolitan areas. Urban natural areas or open spaces, such as forests, greenways, and stream corridors, must be acquired now if they are to be saved from development. Local organizations such as the Open Space Council are devoted to this task. However, urban land conservation does not seem to have a high priority with most statewide organizations, which have grown up with rural needs in mind. Furthermore, urban areas are expensive. Governor Carnahan has said that "it is time to turn our attention from expansion to long-term maintenance and resource protection." Urban developers will not wait.

Control of Billboards along Missouri Highways—Missouri is unable to control the billboard lobby. This concern rises to prominence now and then, but little headway has been made. The newer billboards are monsters. We should open our eyes to the ugliness we have created for ourselves and our visitors.

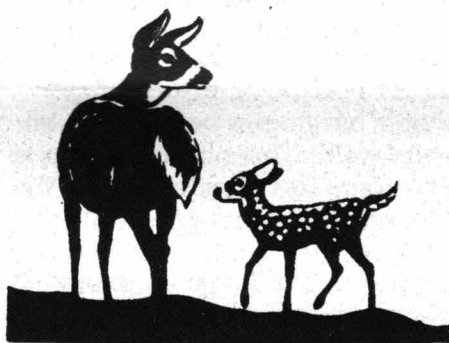
We can all think of additions to this list. We should all make our own list of environmental concerns and act upon our priorities.

Additional Hearings Requested for Page Avenue Extension Project

by Jim Holsen

On Christmas Eve, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers asked for comments on a request by the Missouri Highway and Transportation Department for a permit to construct a bridge over the Missouri River and nearby creeks and to add fill material to many acres of urban wetlands. This project, called the Page Avenue Extension, requires a Corps permit under the authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

The St. Louis Audubon Society and other conservation groups have requested that additional hearings be held in St. Louis County, which will bear the impact of the proposed project. A decision on the hearings has not been made.



Missouri Audubon Council Meets in Jefferson City

by Jim Holsen

The Missouri Audubon Council met in Jefferson City on January 30 to hear comments from representatives of the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on new programs of interest to those organizations. Nearly 30 members from 8 chapters were present. Marshall Magner and I represented the St. Louis Audubon Society.

Kenneth Babcock, Assistant Director for MDC, spoke on managing Missouri's biodiversity. New pilot programs in regional ecosys-

tem management are getting underway. MDC is sponsoring a unique activity at the Eagle Bluffs Wildlife Area near Columbia, where wetlands are being used as the primary source for sewage treatment. It is expected that visitors from around the world will attend the dedication and study the program.

Kathy Hale, legislative liaison for DNR, reviewed House and Senate bills expected to be debated in the new session. Imported liquid hazardous wastes are mixed with ordinary fuels and used as "blend fuel" in Missouri cement kilns. Senate Bill 80, Voluntary Clean-Up and Hazardous Waste Inspection Fee Bill, imposes a fee and provides for more frequent inspections at sites where these wastes are consumed. Other bills pertained to the regulation of landfill locations, regulation of on-site sewage systems (septic tanks), initiation of energy efficiency measures in state buildings, and 2 House bills which could drastically limit the authority of DNR to identify "habitual violators" of environmental regulations.

Marshall Magner represented the St. Louis Audubon Society at a meeting of the Forestry Committee of the Council, which met at Lake of the Ozarks. The Forestry Committee and particularly the Eastern Ozarks Audubon Chapter are concerned with a demand by all-terrain vehicle (ATV) owners for hundreds of miles of ATV trails in the Salem/Potosi region of the Mark Twain National Forest. The Forest Service is preparing an environmental impact statement, which is expected to be released in June.

Another concern is the exploratory drilling for lead now underway by the Doe Run Company in the Irish Wilderness area near the Eleven Point River. Drilling wastes may disturb and pollute the underlying aquifer. Some time ago, the National Park Service requested a "sole source" designation for the aquifer, but that request was denied by a regional office of EPA. Missouri Audubon will support a renewal of that petition.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES

The Education Corner

Members and Friends Support Audubon Adventures

by Mary Dueren

In the previous newsletter, the list of Audubon Adventures contributors for the 1992-93 school year was not as complete as it should have been. What follows is the complete list:

Ms. Marguerite Adelbrecht
Mr. Kyle Boldt, Sr.
Mrs. Katherine Chambers
Dr. & Mrs. Alex Cole
Mrs. Ginny Conger
Mr. Paul Crawford
Mrs. Lillian Essmyer
Mrs. Aaron Fischer
Ms. Lena Gilleylen & Mr. Lacy Kyle
Mrs. Bonnie Holyfield
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Howard
Mr. & Mrs. Darrel Kennon
Ms. LaVerne Koyne
Ms. Leslie Lihou
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Mason
Ms. Cynthia Love Roth
Ms. Debbie Samac
Mr. & Mrs. William Wiese
St. Louis Nature Study Society
St. Louis Audubon Society Board
Although I inadvertently left some contributors off the previous list, their donations are also very much appreciated. (Many apologies for the error!)

Our goal for the 1993-94 school year is 100 classrooms. Some of the fund-raising efforts have been especially successful, particularly the Community Club Awards (CCA). We have enough funds at present for about 30 classrooms. Birdathon and individual contributions will hopefully allow us to furnish Audubon Adventures to 100 classrooms.

If you would like to contribute to the general Audubon Adventures fund or for a particular school, please contact me at 576-1473.

Participate in Birdathon 1993!

by Mary Dueren

Reading an article in the May/June 1991 issue of Bird Watcher's Digest made me long for Birdathon time again. Chuck Bernstein writes in "Beginners' Birdathon" about leading first-time bird watchers on a fund-raising event for the Los Angeles Audubon Society:

"Seven prospective birders arrive intact, so we're batting a strong .500. And now there are new challenges. One woman has never before used binoculars. Hers were 'borrowed from a neighbor.' One man has forgotten his binoculars. He gets to carry the scope, which gives him first looks at each bird we zero in on. Four people have never before been on a bird walk. Three have been on at least some sort of nature hike. We have one repeater from last year. Clever girl."

After taking this group of novices on a whirlwind day of bird-watching, Bernstein ends his article with: "Listening to the group's sounds of pleasure, seeing the fire of excitement in their eyes, sending them off with colorful bird images they can carry with them forever, perhaps rekindling feelings of wonder lost since childhood has raised what might have been a lackluster event into what has been for me a joyous bird walk."

Last April, Mary Lou Miller and I experienced very similar successes on an extremely cold Sunday. We counted 65 different bird species from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm. Our sponsors contributed almost \$800 for our efforts.

Please join us this May for Birdathon!

Winter Birding Adventures

by Paul Bauer

Often winter can bring unusual and even exceptional birds to the St. Louis area; remember the very rare Ross' gull at Riverlands in early January 1992? Well, this winter has provided its own unusual experiences.

In mid-December, a snowy owl showed up about 20 miles east of Alton and stayed over a week. Much of the time, it was perched atop signs at a truck stop! However, many people got good views and photographs when it would hunt in nearby fields.

The Audubon Christmas bird counts started in 1900 with a goal of offering an alternative to the then popular notion of indiscriminate shooting of "game" in the name of good sport. Now most species of birds and animals are protected, and limits are set for the remainder. Well, this bird counting idea has really grown with time. The 1991-92 season had 1,646 count areas across the land, with 43,588 observers and a total of 628 species of birds sighted!!

In our local area, we have three counts that have been going on for more than the 45 years that I have been birding. These counts are healthy outdoor adventures and a good chance to learn how many of what birds stay with us in winter. Our local counts are centered on Busch Wildlife Area, Orchard Farm (both in St. Charles County), and Pere Marquette State Park in Illinois. Usually 60 to 75 species of birds can be found in a given count area. This year we had an unusual event at Busch Wildlife Area. The Missouri Department of Conservation hired a TV camera crew to film the "action."

The real news this winter was eagles, eagles, eagles—right here in the St. Louis area. During the severe cold period in early January, an unusually large number of bald eagles roosted in the Ellis Island trees at Riverlands. At sunrise on January 6 and 7, a total of 170 to 180 eagles were reported at the

roost. Even as late as 10:30 am, I counted over 80 eagles still in the trees; by then, most of the others had spread out to feeding look-outs. They were easy to photograph as they flew into or from the roost. In past winters, these large numbers were seen only by going north to Winfield or Clarksville Dams; now we have them at Riverlands. With the unusually mild weather in late January, most of these eagles have already pushed farther north.

A sizable number of St. Louis area birders are active throughout the year, not just in spring. Many of these have a quest to see how many bird species can be observed within 50 miles of the St. Louis city limits. The winner in 1992 was Jack Van Benthuyzen (one of our past presidents) with 274 species! This is the third highest area record and is topped only by Ron Goetz (276) and Phoebe Snitsinger (275). The Webster Groves Nature Study Society (WGNSS) Nature Notes listed 18 birders who sighted over 200 for last year.

I have found that if you go out at least twice a month throughout the year to all of the best places, reaching 200 is usually possible. How many birds can you find in 1993? Check the upcoming events and join our birding trips; let us help you.

A Review of Life in the Balance

by LaVerne Koyne

Life in the Balance is a companion book to the Audubon television specials, written by David Rains Wallace, a distinguished nature writer and the winner of the John Burroughs Medal. Reading this wonderful book is an easy and enjoyable way to explore our natural environment.

The dozen chapters range over the world's most crucial ecosystems—grasslands, mountains, deserts, polar ice, rivers, oceans, and wetlands, which are more important to save now than ever before. This book will enable the reader to understand better what major problems we face and what is being done and what can be done in the future to preserve the richness of life in each of these precious ecosystems. This 300-page book contains 50 color photos, along with another 50 or so black-and-whites, and 12 maps, drawings, and charts.

Life in the Balance is only one of a collection of over 1,500 books in a dozen categories housed at the St. Louis Audubon's Education Center. Work is presently being done to organize these books so that in the future, Audubon members, family and friends may check them out and enjoy nature reading of all varieties.

Environmental Numbers Tell the Story

In tropical areas such as Central America, environmental changes occur so rapidly that the annual evaluation leaves conservationists with mixed feelings of hope and desperation.

To maintain balance and good spirits, environmentalists try to focus on the positive numbers, too:

*A new park, a forested island of 121,000 acres, was given legal protection in Panama in 1992.

*In Nicaragua, where an estimated 200,000 acres of forest were lost last year, conservationists note that three large forest and marine reserves were created.

*Almost 50,000 acres were reforested in Central America last year.

Ecotourism is surging in the region, bringing money and political clout to conservation efforts.

About 10 percent of the region is now in parks and reserves, and an average of 4.5 new parks are added each year. There are dozens of groups—more than 30 in tiny El Salvador alone—that are successfully working to improve the standard of living in rural communities by combining conservation and sustainable development.

(Article reprinted in part from the Tropical Conservation Newsbureau, December 1992.)

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Check the membership category desired: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

☐ Introductory/\$20

☐ Sustaining/\$50

☐ Sr. Citizen Family/\$23

☐ Individual/\$35

☐ Supporting/\$100

☐ Family/\$40

☐ Sr. Citizen/\$21

Name

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Send application to:

Mrs. Katherine Chambers, Membership Chairman
St. Louis Audubon Society 7XCH
7024 Forsyth
St. Louis, MO 63105

Make membership checks payable to:

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

If you wish to make a donation to the local chapter, please write a separate check to:

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Mary Dueren	VP-Education	576-1473
Dave Ulmer	Treasurer	394-1686
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Jerry Miller	389-3969
Dave Pierce	434-1651
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Terry Whaley	938-5386

Other Chairpeople/Coordinators

Katherine Chambers	Membership	863-9346
Ralph Cook	Blue Bird Trail- Educ. Ctr.	843-7720
Bill Kloppe	Rep. for SLEEN & SLEEC	962-7537
Janice Patton	Library	961-1545
Vi Pinkerton	Flowers (condolences, etc.)	469-2116
Nick Staten	Video & Slide Library/Posters	821-5560

THANK YOU

For Donations to the St. Louis Audubon Society:

MARTIN SCHWEIG, in honor of Katherine Chambers and in memory of Leonard & Virginia Hall

GEORGE & CAROL TIMSON, in memory of Leonard Hall

Newsletter Information

The St. Louis Audubon Society's Newsletter is printed bi-monthly on recycled paper with soy ink. No staples are used so as to make the newsletter more easily recyclable. Printing is done by Dolde Printing Co., 1350 Lonedell Rd., Arnold, MO 63010.

Please send any article submissions for the next edition by **MARCH 26** (note earlier date) to Karen Tylka, 3155 Frisco Hill Road, Imperial, MO 63052 (H# 942-3142).

Our Phone Number

To contact the St. Louis Audubon Society, please call (314) 938-6123.



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